

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /093 W
-----180109Z 077828 /73

R 170920Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0218

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJECT: BOOST TO ECONOMY

REF: ASMARA 0211 (DTG 151335Z MAR 77)

1. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT CONFIRM THE REPORT, THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN ASMARA THAT THE SOLDIER'S DELEGATION THAT HAD BEEN HELD IN ADDIS ABABA SINCE MID-JANUARY WAS FINALLY ALLOWED TO RETURN TO ASMARA AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. PRESUMABLY, THIS CONCESSION ON PART OF EPMG LED TO THE SECOND DIVISION DECISION TO REINSTATE CONVOYS AND PERMIT REOPENING OF FACTORIES AND PLANTS (REFTEL).
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LOCAL MERCHANTS ALLEGEDLY HAVE BEEN WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT NONE OF THE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS WERE TO BE CONSIGNED TO ADDIS. IF TRUE, THIS WOULD BE QUITE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.

2. RUMORS LAST WEEK THAT THE SECOND DIVISION WOULD FORCE THE BANKS TO CLOSE CAUSED QUITE A RUN ON THE BANKS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 11-12. EVEN WITH THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE PREVALENT

THIS WEEK, DEPOSITORS FOR THE MOMENT ARE WARY.

3. THE THIRD CONVOY OF THE WEEK LEFT FOR MASSAWA THE MORNING OF MARCH 17. THE SECOND CONVOY (MARCH 15-16) HAD BROUGHT BACK CEMENT, WHEAT, TEFF, AND SOME IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS, AS WELL AS THE NORMAL COMPLEMENT OF POL. FOR THE NONCE, ASMARA'S ECONOMY IS PERKING ALONG AS IF CONDITIONS WERE NORMAL.
SLUTZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: BOOST TO ECONOMY
TAGS: PINS, ET
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